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PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Progress made in the preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, entrusted the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the function of preparing the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders.

2. The Secretary-General submitted a report on the preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (E/CN.15/1993/7) for consideration by the Commission at its second session, held at Vienna from 13 to 23 April 1993. That report dealt, inter alia, with substantive preparations, organizational arrangements and possible substantive topics for the Ninth Congress.

3. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted its resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993, in which it, inter alia, approved the provisional agenda for the Ninth Congress and determined that six workshops should be held as an integral part of the event. Further, resolution 1993/32 approved the rules of procedure for the Ninth Congress, as recommended by the Commission.

II. SUBSTANTIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PREPARATIONS

4. Resources for holding the Ninth Congress were included in the budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and were approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session by its resolution 48/231 of 23 December 1993. The budget includes resources for the related information campaign to be carried out by the Department of Public Information, as well as the resources required to ensure the participation at the Congress of the least developed countries.

A. Regional preparatory meetings

5. The five regional preparatory meetings were scheduled as follows:

(a) Asian and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting at the headquarters of, and in cooperation with, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at Bangkok, from 17 to 21 January 1994;

(b) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, at the invitation of the Government of Uganda and in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, at Kampala, from 14 to 18 February 1994;

(c) European Regional Preparatory Meeting, with the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Europe, at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, from 28 February to 4 March 1994;

(d) Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, at the invitation of the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and with the cooperation of the Government of Costa Rica and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at San José, from 7 to 11 March 1994;

(e) Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, at the headquarters of and in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Government of Jordan, at Amman, from 20 to 24 March 1994.

6. The resources for holding the meetings were included in the budget for the biennium 1994-1995. In its resolution 48/230 of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly approved, on an exceptional basis, the travel expenses of the representatives of the least developed countries attending the regional preparatory meetings of the Ninth Congress.

7. Member States participating in the meetings were briefed by the Secretariat on the new rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, contained in the annex to Council resolution 1993/32.

8. The reports of the five regional preparatory meetings (A/CONF.169/RPM.1-5) are before the Commission.

B. Ninth Congress

1. Dates

9. The Council, in its resolution 1993/32, decided that the Ninth Congress should be held early in 1995, for a period of 10 working days and two days of pre-Congress consultations. The precise dates, however, are dependent on a venue. If one of the invitations to hold the Ninth Congress are accepted by the Council, the dates would be from 9 to 20 January 1995. Pre-Congress consultations would be held on 7 and 8 January 1995. If, on the other hand, the Congress is held at the Austria Center Vienna, the dates would be from 6 to 17 February 1995. The two days of pre-Congress consultations would be on 4 and 5 February 1995. It should be noted that additional delays in deciding a venue for the Congress would seriously endanger its success.

2. Provisional agenda

10. In its resolution 1993/32, the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, approved the following provisional agenda, as finalized by the Commission at its second session:

1. Opening of the Congress.

2. Organizational matters.

3. International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law: promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

4. Action against national and transnational economic and organized crime, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment: national experiences and international cooperation.

5. Criminal justice and police systems; management and improvement of police and other law enforcement agencies, prosecutions, courts, corrections; and the role of lawyers.

6. Crime prevention strategies, in particular as related to crimes in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including the question of victims: assessment and new perspectives.

7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

3. Congress format

11. The following arrangements for the Ninth Congress are proposed:

(a) Two days of pre-Congress consultations, in plenary and regional groups, will be held on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the opening of the Congress. While the plenary will receive full interpretation, the regional groups meetings will have to be scheduled so as to accommodate the available interpretation capacity of the Secretariat. The purpose of the consultations is to reach agreement on the recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Congress on the opening day, such as the election of officers and composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts among the regional groups in the General Committee, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of members of the Credentials Committee and the arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Congress;

(b) The opening ceremony, including the election of the President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur, will take place on the morning of the first day (Monday);

(c) The plenary held in the afternoon of the same day will be devoted to an exchange of information on possible sources of technical assistance for concrete projects and to the role of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in channelling funding for technical cooperation worldwide;

(d) Starting on the morning of the second day (Tuesday), the work of the Congress will be handled by the plenary and two committees of the whole, all three with full interpretation in the official languages;

(e) The plenary will serve as the forum for heads of delegations to present the major orientations, achievements and expectations in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. On the last day of the Congress (Friday of the second week), the plenary will examine the recommendations and conclusions of the two committees and approve the final report;

(f) Each committee of the whole will handle two of the four substantive topics and, as informal groups, three of the six workshops. The details of the arrangements are presented in the annex of the present report.

4. Workshops

12. In its resolution 1993/32, the Council also endorsed the programme of work for the Ninth Congress, including the holding of six workshops. The topics of the six workshops and their duration are as follows:

(a) Extradition and international cooperation: exchange of national experiences and implementation of relevant principles in national legislation (one day);

(b) Mass media and crime prevention (one day);

(c) Urban policy and crime prevention (one day);

(d) Prevention of violent crime (one day);

(e) Environmental protection at the national and international levels: potentials and limits of criminal justice (two days);

(f) International cooperation and assistance in the management of the criminal justice system: computerization of criminal justice operations and the development, analysis and policy use of criminal justice information (two days).

13. Descriptions of the workshops are to be found in the discussion guide on demonstration and research workshops (A/CONF.169/PM.1/Add.1).

14. In its resolution 1993/32, the Council decided to include, within the framework of the plenary of the Ninth Congress, a one-day discussion on experiences in and practical measures aimed at combating corruption involving public officials. The discussion is scheduled to take place on Monday of the second week of the Congress.

5. Rules of procedure

15. In its resolution 1993/32, the Council approved the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, as recommended by the Commission.

16. The new rules of procedure were brought to the attention of Member States on the occasion of the above-mentioned regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress. The limitations on draft resolutions contained in rule 28 received particular mention, in so far as they represent a considerable departure from previous rules of procedure.

6. Documentation

17. The basic documentation for the Ninth Congress will consist of the following:

(a) One working paper for each of the four substantive items of the provisional agenda of the Congress, drawing on the results of the regional preparatory meetings, on the contributions of consultants and on the recommendations of the Commission at its third session. The working papers will set the stage for the discussions by highlighting the elements of the problems and reflecting the priorities and major issues in the various regions;

(b) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings;

(c) Documents prepared by the Secretariat that are relevant to the discussion of the agenda items;

(d) One background paper for each of the six workshops to be held at the Ninth Congress, which will serve to orient the discussions at those events;

(e) One background paper for the plenary session on corruption, to be held in accordance with Council resolution 1993/32.

18. Background documents for the Ninth Congress will consist of the following:

(a) National papers or reports by Governments;

(b) Reports prepared by other entities in the United Nations system and by the interregional and regional institutes;

(c) Reports by specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, dealing with specific questions in their areas of concern.

Annex

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE NINTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Day and time	Committee I	Plenary	Committee II
Monday (1st), a.m.		Opening ceremony	
Monday (1st), p.m.	Introduction, item 3, topic 1	Technical assistance	Introduction, item 4, topic 2
Tuesday (2nd), a.m.	Continuation of item 3	Plenary	Continuation of item 4
Tuesday (2nd), p.m.	Continuation of item 3	Plenary	Continuation of item 4
Wednesday (3rd), a.m.	Workshop (d)	Plenary	Workshop (b)
Wednesday (3rd), p.m.	Workshop (d)	Plenary	Workshop (b)
Thursday (4th), a.m.	Workshop (f)	Plenary	Workshop (a)
Thursday (4th), p.m.	Workshop (f)	Plenary	Workshop (a)
Friday (5th), a.m.	Workshop (f)	Plenary	Conclusions and recommendations, item 4
Friday (5th), p.m.	Workshop (f)	Plenary	Conclusions and recommendations, item 4
Monday (6th), a.m.	Introduction, item 5, topic 3	Corruption	Introduction, item 6, topic 4
Monday (6th), p.m.	Continuation of item 5	Corruption	Continuation of item 6
Tuesday (7th), a.m.	Conclusions and recommendations, item 3	Plenary	Workshop (e)
Tuesday (7th), p.m.	Conclusions and recommendations, item 3	Plenary	Workshop (e)
Wednesday (8th), a.m.	Workshop (c)	Plenary	Workshop (e)
Wednesday (8th), p.m.	Workshop (c)	Plenary	Workshop (e)
Thursday (9th), a.m.	Conclusions and recommendations, item 5	Plenary	Conclusions and recommendations, item 6
Thursday (9th), p.m.	Conclusions and recommendations, item 5	Plenary	Conclusions and recommendations, item 6
Friday (10th), a.m. and p.m.		Adoption of the report and closure	

Notes: There will be daily plenary meetings throughout the Congress, four topical committees of the whole which introduce and recapitulate each topic and four days of workshops.

One technical cooperation meeting on day one is designed to provide assistance to countries in acquiring information about sources of funding of technical cooperation projects and in identifying multilateral and bilateral projects. In addition, every workshop topic will have a component on how to obtain the particular service or technology discussed by that workshop.

The topics of the workshops are as follows:

(a) Extradition and international cooperation: exchange of national experiences and implementation of relevant principles in national legislation;
(b) Mass media and crime prevention;
(c) Urban policy and crime prevention;
(d) Prevention of violent crime;
(e) Environmental protection at the national and international levels: potentials and limits of criminal justice;
(f) International cooperation and assistance in the management of the criminal justice system: computerization of criminal justice operations and the development, analysis and policy use of criminal justice information.